

What is Claimed is

1. An interactive program guide system including user equipment with which an interactive television program guide is provided and which includes a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 means for receiving television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide;

means for determining whether the video recorder and television are a combined unit;

10 means for selecting a program for recording from the interactive television program guide; and

means for displaying a message prior to recording the selected program when the video recorder  
15 and television are a combined unit that informs the user that recording is to begin and asks the user whether to continue with recording.

2. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for cancelling the recording of the selected program when the user chooses to not continue with recording in  
5 response to the message.

3. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of television channels; and

5 means for tuning to the channel for the selected program and directing the video recorder to record the selected program when the user chooses to continue with recording in response to the message.

4. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 3 further comprising means for recording the selected program without directing the video recorder to turn on when the user chooses to  
5 continue with recording in response to the message.

5. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of television channels;

5 means for tuning to the channel for the selected program, turning on the video recorder, and directing the video recorder to record the selected program when the user does not respond to the message.

6. A method for using an interactive program guide system using user equipment with which an

interactive television program guide is provided and  
which includes a video recorder and a television,

5 comprising:

receiving television program guide  
information for use in the interactive television  
program guide;

determining whether the video recorder  
10 and television are a combined unit;

selecting a program for recording from  
the interactive television program guide; and

displaying a message prior to recording  
the selected program when the video recorder and  
15 television are a combined unit that informs the user  
that recording is to begin and asks the user whether to  
continue with recording.

7. The method defined in claim 6 further  
comprising cancelling the recording of the selected  
program when the user chooses to not continue with  
recording in response to the message.

8. The method defined in claim 6 further  
comprising:

receiving a plurality of television  
channels; and

5                   tuning to the channel for the selected  
program and directing the video recorder to record the  
selected program when the user chooses to continue with  
recording in response to the message.

9.     The method defined in claim 8 further  
comprising recording the selected program without  
directing the video recorder to turn on when the user  
chooses to continue with recording in response to the  
5   message.

10.    The method defined in claim 6 further  
comprising:

          receiving a plurality of television  
channels; and

5                   tuning to the channel for the selected  
program, turning on the video recorder, and directing  
the video recorder to record the selected program when  
the user does not respond to the message.

11.    An interactive program guide system  
including user equipment with which an interactive  
television program guide is provided and which includes  
a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5                   communications circuitry configured to  
receive television program guide information for use in  
the interactive television program guide;

                  control circuitry configured to  
determine whether the video recorder and the television  
10 are a combined unit and to allow the user to select a  
program for recording from the interactive television  
program guide; and

                  display circuitry configured to display  
a message prior to recording the selected program when  
15 the video recorder and television are a combined unit  
that informs the user that recording is to begin and  
asks the user whether to continue with recording.

12. The interactive program guide system  
defined in claim 11 wherein the control circuitry is  
further configured to cancel the recording of the  
selected program when the user chooses to not continue  
5 with recording in response to the message.

13. The interactive program guide system  
defined in claim 11 further comprising tuner circuitry  
configured to receive a plurality of television  
channels, wherein the control circuitry is further  
5 configured to direct the tuner circuitry to tune to the  
channel for the selected program and direct the video

recorder to record the selected program when the user chooses to continue with recording in response to the message.

14. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 13 wherein the control circuitry is further configured to direct the video recorder to record the selected program without directing the video recorder to turn on when the user chooses to continue with recording in response to the message.

15. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 11 further comprising tuner circuitry configured to receive a plurality of television channels, wherein the control circuitry is further configured to direct the tuner circuitry to tune to the channel for the selected program, directs the video recorder to turn on, and direct the video recorder to record the selected program when the user does not respond to the message.

16. A machine-readable medium for implementing an interactive television program guide comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

receiving television program guide  
5 information for use in an interactive television  
program guide;  
determining whether a video recorder and  
a television are a combined unit;  
providing a user with an opportunity to  
10 select a program for recording from the interactive  
television program guide; and  
displaying a message prior to recording  
the selected program when the video recorder and  
television are a combined unit that informs the user  
15 that recording is to begin and asks the user whether to  
continue with recording.

17. The machine-readable medium defined in  
claim 16 further comprising machine program logic  
recorded thereon for cancelling the recording of the  
selected program when the user chooses to not continue  
5 with recording in response to the message.

18. The machine-readable medium defined in  
claim 16 further comprising machine program logic  
recorded thereon for directing tuning circuitry to tune  
to a channel for the selected program and directing the  
5 video recorder to record the selected program when the

user chooses to continue with recording in response to the message.

19. The machine-readable medium defined in claim 18 further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for directing the video recorder to record the selected program without directing the video recorder to turn on when the user chooses to continue  
5 with recording in response to the message.

20. The machine-readable medium defined in claim 16 further comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for directing tuning circuitry to tune to a channel for the selected program, directing the  
5 video recorder to turn on, and directing the video recorder to record the selected program when the user does not respond to the message.